

Saga International Balloon Festival

EXPERIENCE

BY: NAGARJUNA ASAM

As the limited express kamome pulled into the Balloon Saga station, from the usual quietness of the Japanese trains and the sleepiness of early morning, liveliness and cheer erupted as we all looked through the window. Clear sky decorated by colourful balloons ushered what turned out to be a truly good morning. As we got down and walked towards the balloons, they first got bigger and then enormous. It was

heart-warming to watch the hot air balloons and balloonists operate. One-by-one they patiently fired up their balloons to full-size, and launched off to the amazement of thousands of onlooker lilliputs. It took a whole hour for us to get bored and feel hungry. We had



delicious food from one of the numerous temporary food stalls as the competition event ended. Soon afterwards, we could see on the far end a gigantic Honda-Asimo shaped balloon waving hands at us. We went there to see many other popular characters including my personal favorites, Darth Vader and Tom.

Then we spent the whole afternoon at the nearby Yoshinogari historical park, where an iron-age village (but with vending machines) let us time-travel two thousand years back to Yayoi period. By nightfall, we returned to the fiesta grounds where the same character-balloons from the morning completely transformed into



something different, lit-up by fire from inside. We sat down and rested for a while watching the magical sight of them rhythmically lit-up with live music. Finally wwe returned, full of satisfaction of a day well-spent.

— Onsen — Japanese Vinter Vonderland

by Satomi Hayashi

Winter is just around the corner and indeed can be wrenchingly cold (>o<) You could either choose to spend time under a warm kotasu or eat a warm bowl of nabe. However, for the outdoor type, we believe onsen is a must-try! So this time let's learn about "Onsen(温泉)" together.

Onsen is a tradition in Japan, and hence has a long and rich history to it. As onsen is very popular among Japanese citizens, roughly 3000 onsens around the country exist to accomodate the big number of fans. One of the oldest onsen dates back to "Jomon(縄文) era" and can be found in Nagano prefecture. Since then, onsen is said to be blessings of the earth—sacred water which can heal injuries. This is why there are many myths related to "Onsen," many of which relate to how they were found. Nowadays, onsens still provide great benefits to our health, skin and disease all over the world. In Kyushu, Oita (大分), Beppu(別府) and Yufuin (湯布院) are particularly famous for their natural onsens. Not only do these bathhouses provide you a relaxing experience but also delicious traditional Japanese food;) Try them out and we're sure you'll have a wonderful time this winter vacation! Merry onsen!

Our (personal) recommedations in Fukuoka are: Taisenkaku (泰泉閣), Futsukaichi (二日市)

Feel free to explore more options here: https://retrip.jp/articles/6644/



HUMANS OF KYUDAI



Hello! Allow me to share the story of my boredom with you, because I get used to spending most of my time trying to figure out economic models or reading paper. This leads to confusion... I am so confused that I even forgot to introduce myself, sorry! I am Thierry from Burkina Faso, a Master student at the school of Engineering, Kyushu University.

Don't get me wrong, I love the Japanese graduate school system with its labs. However, lab life alone quickly turns into a trap, something like a pressure bubble surrounding us. So in order to blow off some steam, I started playing soccer every Friday...

Then I discovered the Holy Grail for a balanced student life in Kyudai! For the past six months, my favorite activity has been organizing events under KUFSA. Despite the pressure, I can only recollect good memories in my journey with KUFSA. Meeting many international students, traveling around Fukuoka, and ultimately increasing my management skills, I have gained a lot from my experience. But the best part of my adventure is the feeling of being part of a family, away from my family.

As I am telling you all this, the time for the recruitment of new KUFSA officers is coming soon. My word for all of you, Kyushu University students, is that you should not waste any chance to make friends from different backgrounds. Being in KUFSA is an opportunity to be part of an international family, uncover your potential as a leader and be the bridge through which Kyushu University international students will discover and enjoy Japanese life. Don't think twice, take one step forward and seize the opportunity! We will be waiting for you!

GLOBAL CORNER



Kenya's Christmas season is the most celebrated holiday with munificent bequest fragrance of new linen, more populated countryside and various blend of food. Kenya is popular with her rich societal links cutting across regions. Unforgettable history of big yet faceted families canopying villages to cities like Mt. Kenya untamed forest. Fancy lifestyle and congregation encompass churches, homes and eateries especially on Christmas Eve. With

eyes glued on the clock, every breath could count the ticking clock with happy soul of Christmas. Shouts and ululation tosses the air to welcome birthday celebrations of Jesus Christ. Hugs and kisses are exchanged even most unlikely folks. between testament of Christ's love.

On D-day, food lead the way of partying especially nyama choma steaks of goat and beef, and more of Roasted meat 'nyama choma' with Ugali served with salad. A popular festival meal in Kenya.



Old friendship is rekindled, colored with twist of fate and actuated with laughter in a lingo of 'hakuna matata' that means 'no worries at all'. Children do not waste any minute; fun-food and games become their cloud nine.



Kenyans enjoy beach games and swimming at the Jomo Kenyatta public beach, coastal city of Mombasa.

Africa's culture of genre in gender is sensitive; lessons are taught undeniably to young Christmas freshens every breath of Africa: even church mouse knows it is Christmas. For this case, no bone is left unturned. Epitome of the season is traveling to seasoned joints, nature parks and sanctuaries to scale down burdened tummies. Evervone lives Christmases. Krismas niema!

JAPAN INSIDER by: Shota Deguchi

A Jolly Japanese New Jear

Many countries, many customs! Japan, too, celebrates New Year uniquely. Today, we will be discovering three very special New Year traditions in Japan, kadomatsu, joya no kane, and hatsumode.

Kadomatsu is a pair of decorative pine trees put in front door of shops or houses while in New Year holidays. kado means a gate and matsu is a pine tree. Kadomatsu is composed of bamboo and pine—both symbols of vitality, longevity and prosperity. Putting them in the appropriate way is believed to welcome gods.

Joya no kane is a Japanese New Year's Eve Bell. On December 31, monks in shrines ring this bell 108 times to remove all Bonno before



New Year comes. Wait, so what's Bonno and why 108? In Japan, it is believed people have 108 Bonno—burdened feelings (e.g. greed, anger, and obsession) we have to remove to welcome gods in January.

Next is **hatsumode**. This is the very first visit to a temple or a shrine in the New Year. To hear hatsumode, you might imagine praying for a god is everything, but hold on! Upon entering, there is a fountain where people can wash and purify themselves before you make a wish. This process is called Temizu or Chozu (手水). Firstly, you pick a ladle up in your right hand, then scoop water from the fountain and wash your left hand. Switch the ladle to your left hand and wash your right hand. Then, take the ladle with your right hand again, and pour water into your left hand to wash your mouth. Fill the ladle again and tilt it to wash ladle itself, and done! You can now pray for something you want in the New Year. The next process too has a few steps- bow and ring the bell (this is to get the deity's attention), and then throw a coin into the box in front (5 yen coin is considered to be the best!) This is because goen (5円) mirrors goen(乙椒) which means bond among people. If you don't have exactly 5 yen, however, any amount would work. Gods are generous!) After that, bow twice, clap twice, and pray, and then bow deeply one more time.

So, for now, that's all about kadomatsu, joya no kane, and hatsumode but Japanese traditions still contain many wonders for you to discover! So let's try

them all!

Information from the International Student and Researcher Support Center 外国人留学生・研究者サポートセンターからのお知らせ



International Student and Researcher Support Center has been established for international students and researchers to start off your studies or research activities smoothly. Please feel free to contact us when you have any questions or problems.

We extend you our best wishes for your pleasant stay in Fukuoka and fruitful studies and research at Kyushu University.

Website

We are providing various information regarding campus facilities, immigration procedures, and events/news for foreign residents in Fukuoka through this website.

We hope that you will check our website regularly and get useful information.

Business hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Hospital campus: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm) Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and New Year Holidays

Location

Japanese: http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/contact English: http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/contact

Please check more information at Support Center Website!! http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en

CREATIVE CORNER



KUFSA OFFICER RECRUITMENT



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VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT APPLICATION.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN

13- DISASTER DRILL + Bus trip

FEB

17- CULTURE/TRAVEL TRIP
26- BASKETBALL GAMES

MAR

HANAMI (DATE: TBA)



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We hope you can be part of a fruitful year for KUFSA. Please feel free to contact us at kufsainfo@gmail.com!